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2-6-2017

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### Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "Writing & Linguistics News" (2017). *Writing & Linguistics News*. 79.  
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# *Game of Thrones* linguist David Peterson lecture February 9

February 6, 2017

The Department of Writing and Linguistics is pleased to announce that master language creator David J. Peterson will visit Georgia Southern University on February 9, 2017. His campus visit will provide both Writing and Linguistic majors as well as the public with an insightful overview of his career creating language for Hollywood films and hit television shows.

Peterson will run a workshop on language creation for Writing and Linguistics majors (5 pm-6:15 pm in 1114 Newton), and deliver a lecture to audience campus wide (7 pm-8 pm in 1115 College of Education). Peterson offers a captivating overview of language creation, covering its history from Tolkien's creations and Klingon to today's thriving global community of conlangers. He presents the essential tools necessary for inventing and evolving new languages, using examples from a variety of languages including his creations, punctuated with references to everything from *Star Wars* to Michael Jackson.

Along the way, behind-the-scenes stories lift the curtain on how he built languages like Dothraki and Valyrian for HBO's *Game of Thrones* and Shiva'sith for *Marvel's Thor: The Dark World*. His presentation will provide an inside look at a fascinating culture and an engaging entry into a flourishing art form.

David has worked as a language creator on numerous television shows and films, including HBO's *Game of Thrones*, where he created both Dothraki and Valyrian languages, Syfy's *Defiance*, Syfy's *Dominion*, the CW's *The 100*, the CW's *Star-Crossed*, Showtime's *Penny Dreadful*, Marvel's *Thor: The Dark World*, and the upcoming *Emerald City* on NBC and *The Shannara Chronicles* on MTV. In 2014 he published *Living Language Dothraki*, the best-selling guide to the Dothraki language from HBO's *Game of Thrones*. His newest nonfiction work is *The Art of Language Invention* with Penguin Books.

He has a background in academic linguistics, having earned a bachelor's degree in English and Linguistics from UC Berkeley and a master's degree in Linguistics from UC San Diego. He served as a cofounder and original board member of the Language Creation Society, and served as its president from 2011 to 2014.

For more information about Peterson's campus visit, please contact [Dr. Jinrong Li](#).

The Department of Writing and Linguistics is housed in the [College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences](#). The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences is the largest of the eight colleges that make up Georgia Southern University, and it plays a central role in every student's core of knowledge. CLASS, also described as the University's College of the Creative Mind, prepares students to achieve academic excellence, develop their analytical skills, enhance their creativity, and embrace their responsibilities as citizens of their communities, their nations, and the world.

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